

Wildlife Corridor Crossings



Panther Recovery
Implementation Team

Bartow

Jan. 28, 2020

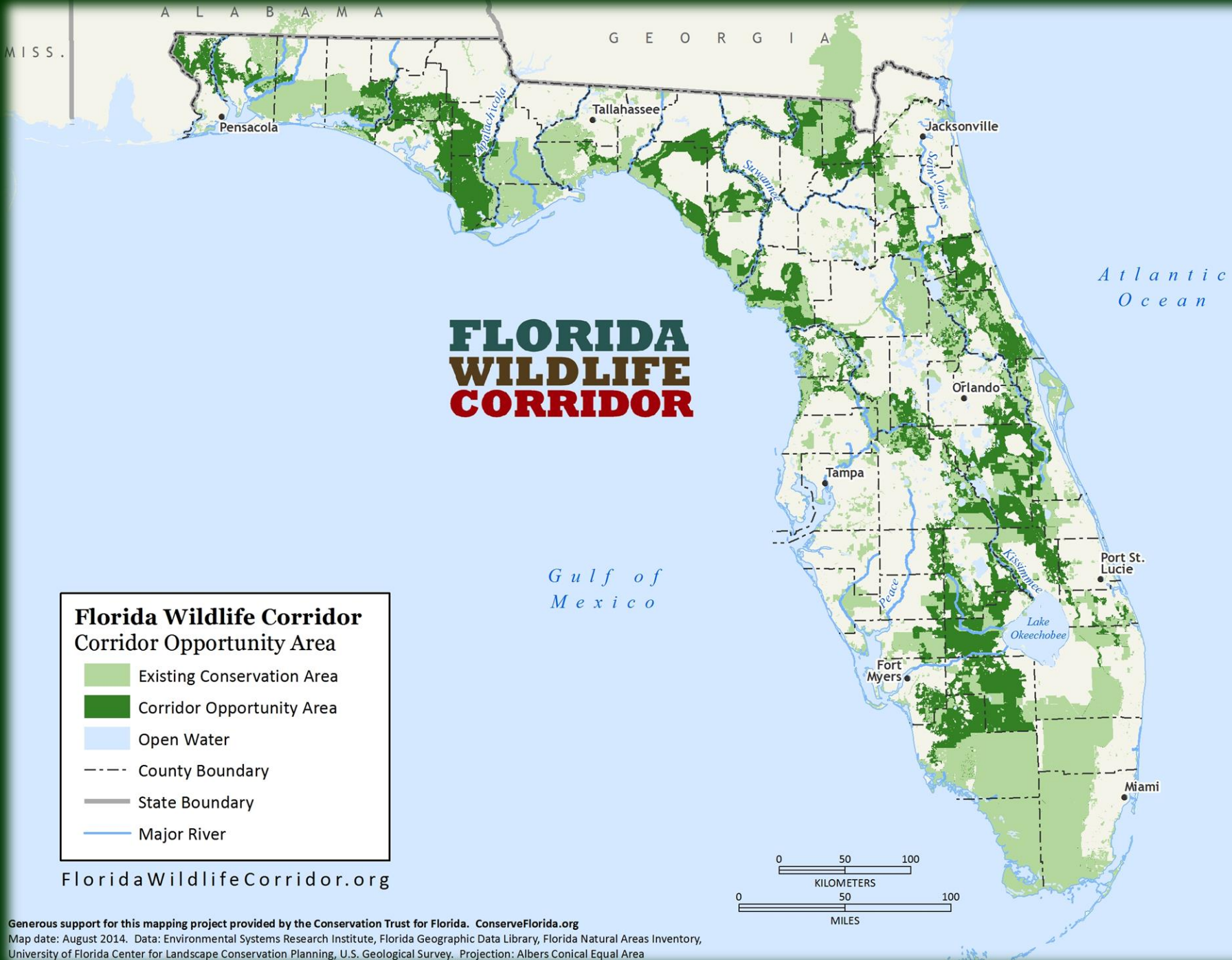
**FLORIDA
WILDLIFE
CORRIDOR**

Jason Lauritsen
Executive Director

Jason@floridawildlifecorridor.org

Objectives

- Establish a protected, connected network of conservation lands adequate to support and sustain healthy native populations of Florida's wildlife. *(represented by the Florida Wildlife Corridor map – FEGN P1 and P2)*
 - Public, private and working lands
- Foster land acquisition, conservation easements, and restoration of lost connectivity
 - Storytelling, advocacy, community engagement (public, planners, decision makers)



FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

9.8 million acres
protected

6.9 million acres
unprotected

16.7 million acres

75 State Parks

43 Major Springs

37 State Forests

111 Bottlenecks

Florida Wildlife Corridor
Corridor Opportunity Area

- Existing Conservation Area
- Corridor Opportunity Area
- Open Water
- County Boundary
- State Boundary
- Major River

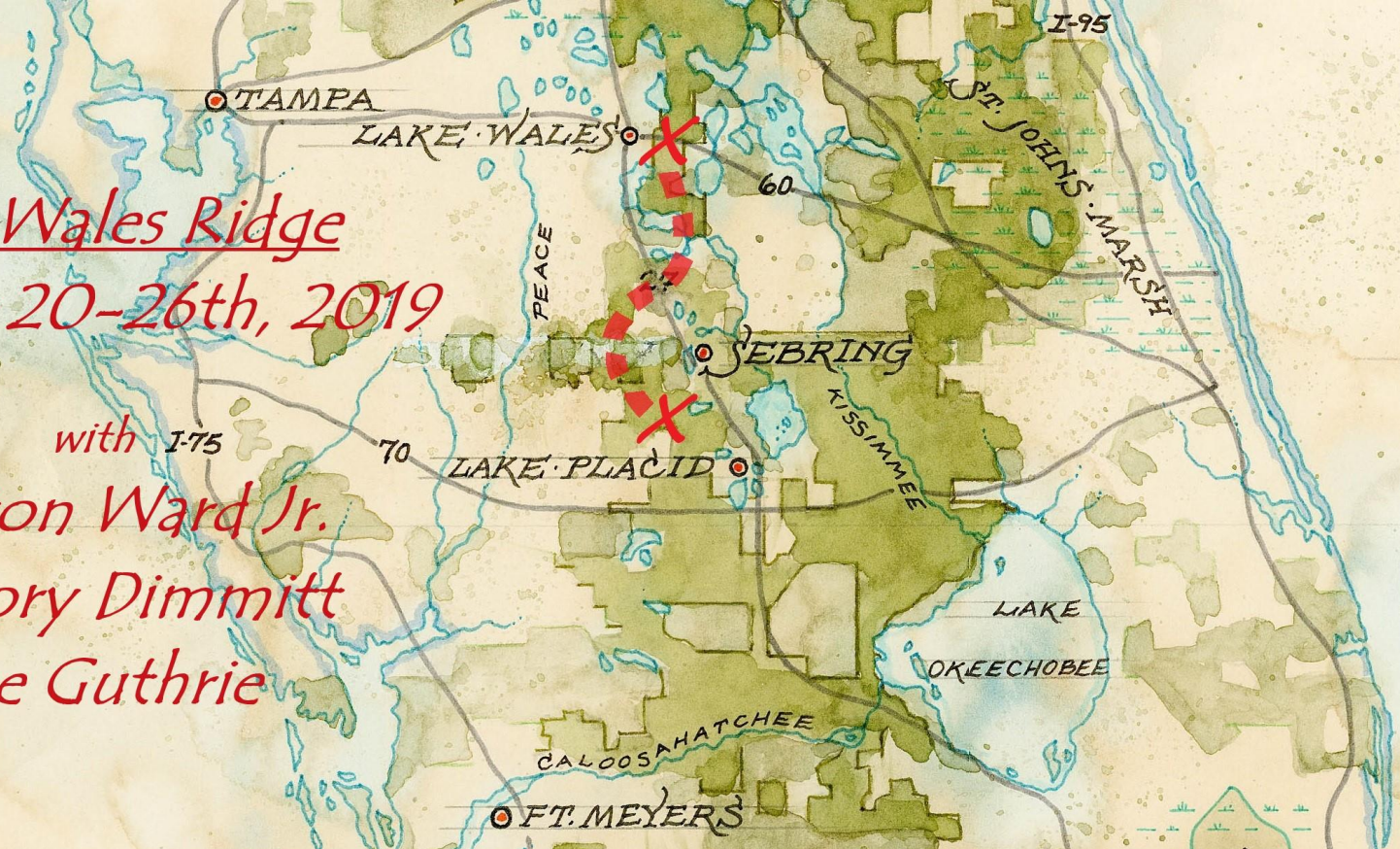
FloridaWildlifeCorridor.org

Generous support for this mapping project provided by the Conservation Trust for Florida. ConserveFlorida.org
Map date: August 2014. Data: Environmental Systems Research Institute, Florida Geographic Data Library, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, University of Florida Center for Landscape Conservation Planning, U.S. Geological Survey. Projection: Albers Conical Equal Area



Lake Wales Ridge
October 20-26th, 2019

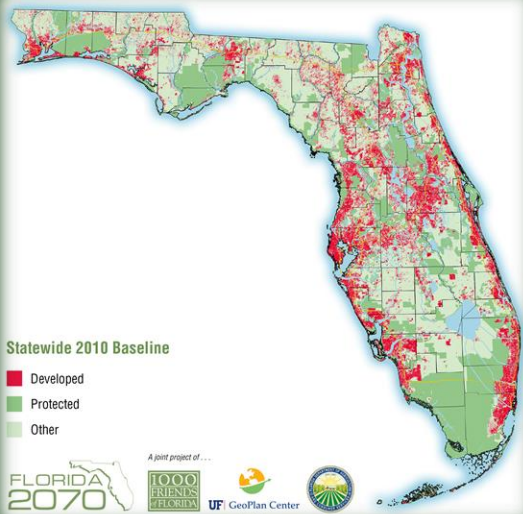
with
Carlton Ward Jr.
Mallory Dimmitt
Joe Guthrie



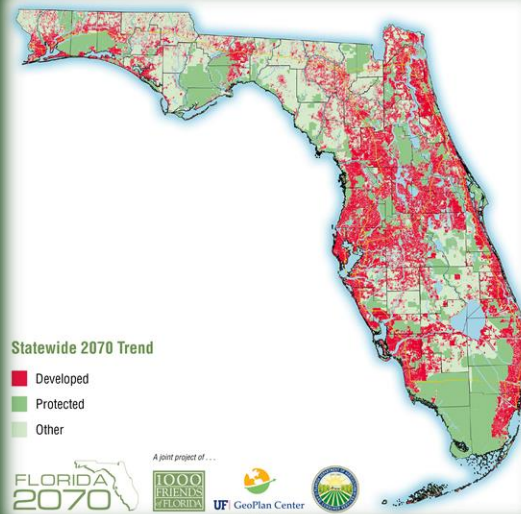


Current efforts

- Update FEGN data set
- Formal designation of the corridor – opportunity area, signage
- Increase funding for acquisitions (fee-simple and CE's)



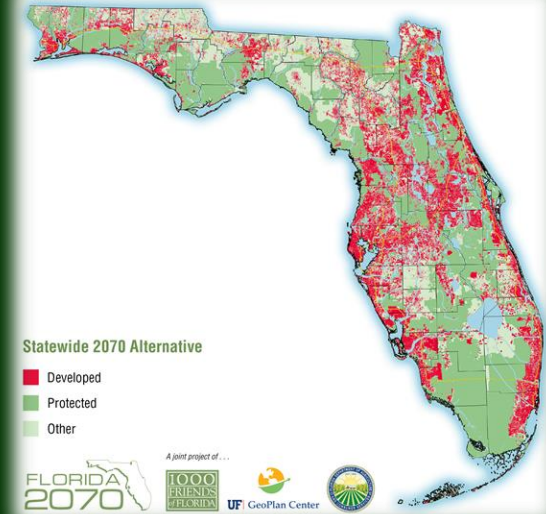
2010 Baseline



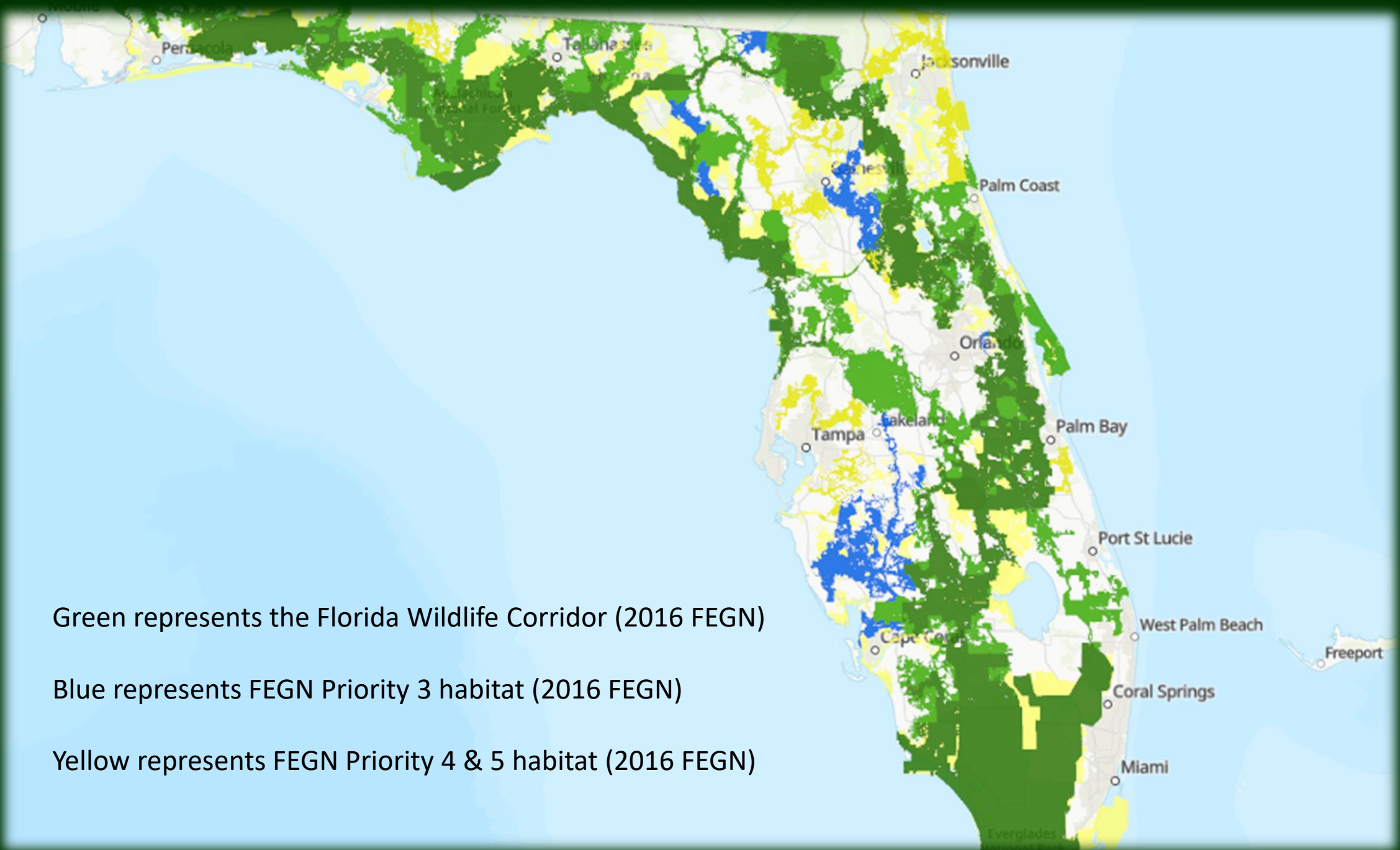
2070 Trend



2016 FL Wildlife Corridor



2070 Alternate



Green represents the Florida Wildlife Corridor (2016 FEGN)

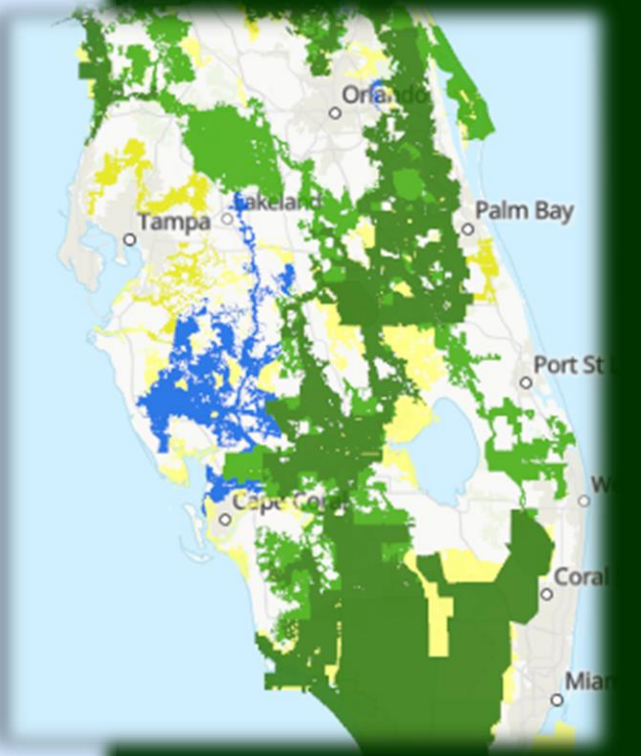
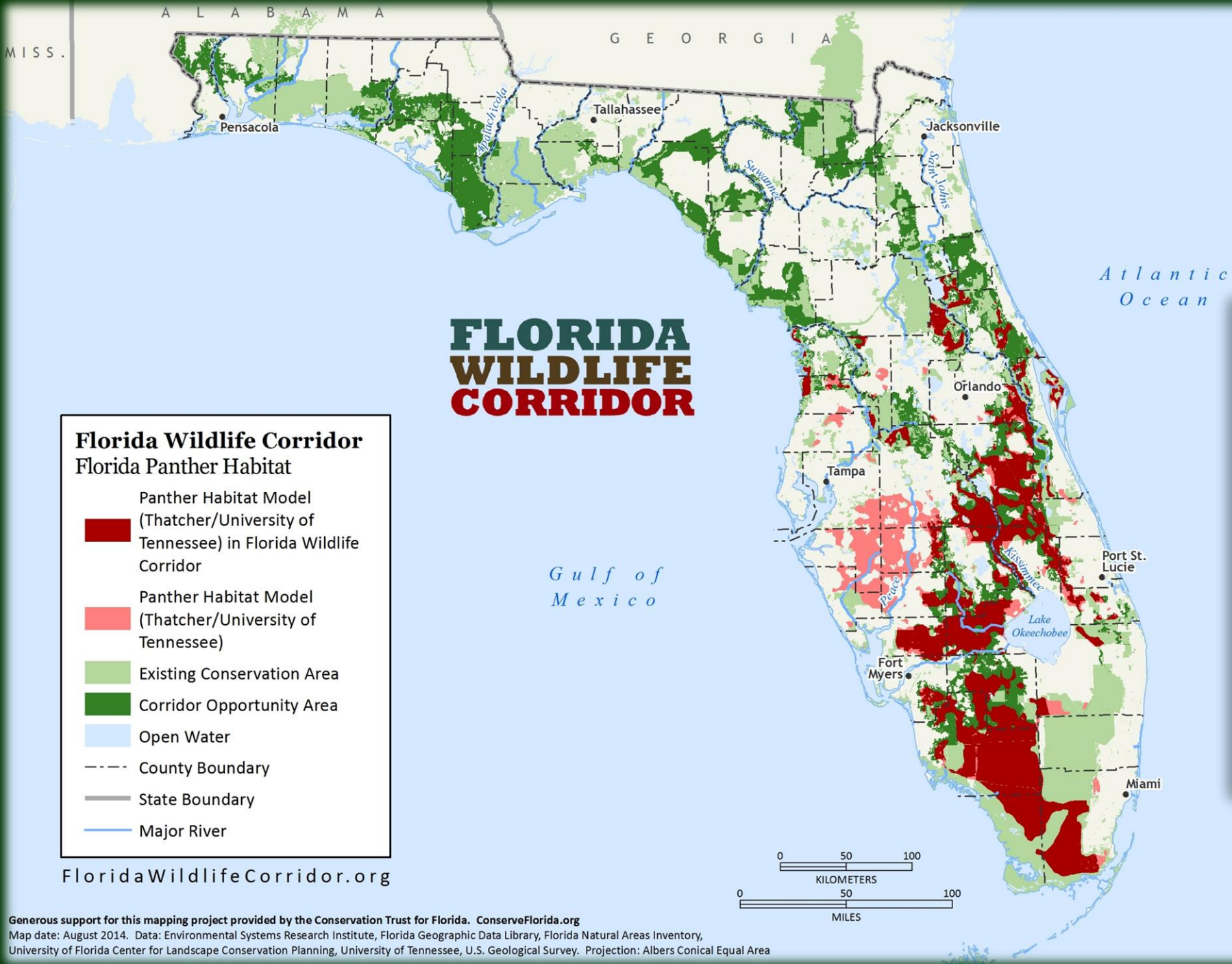
Blue represents FEGN Priority 3 habitat (2016 FEGN)

Yellow represents FEGN Priority 4 & 5 habitat (2016 FEGN)

Update of FEGN

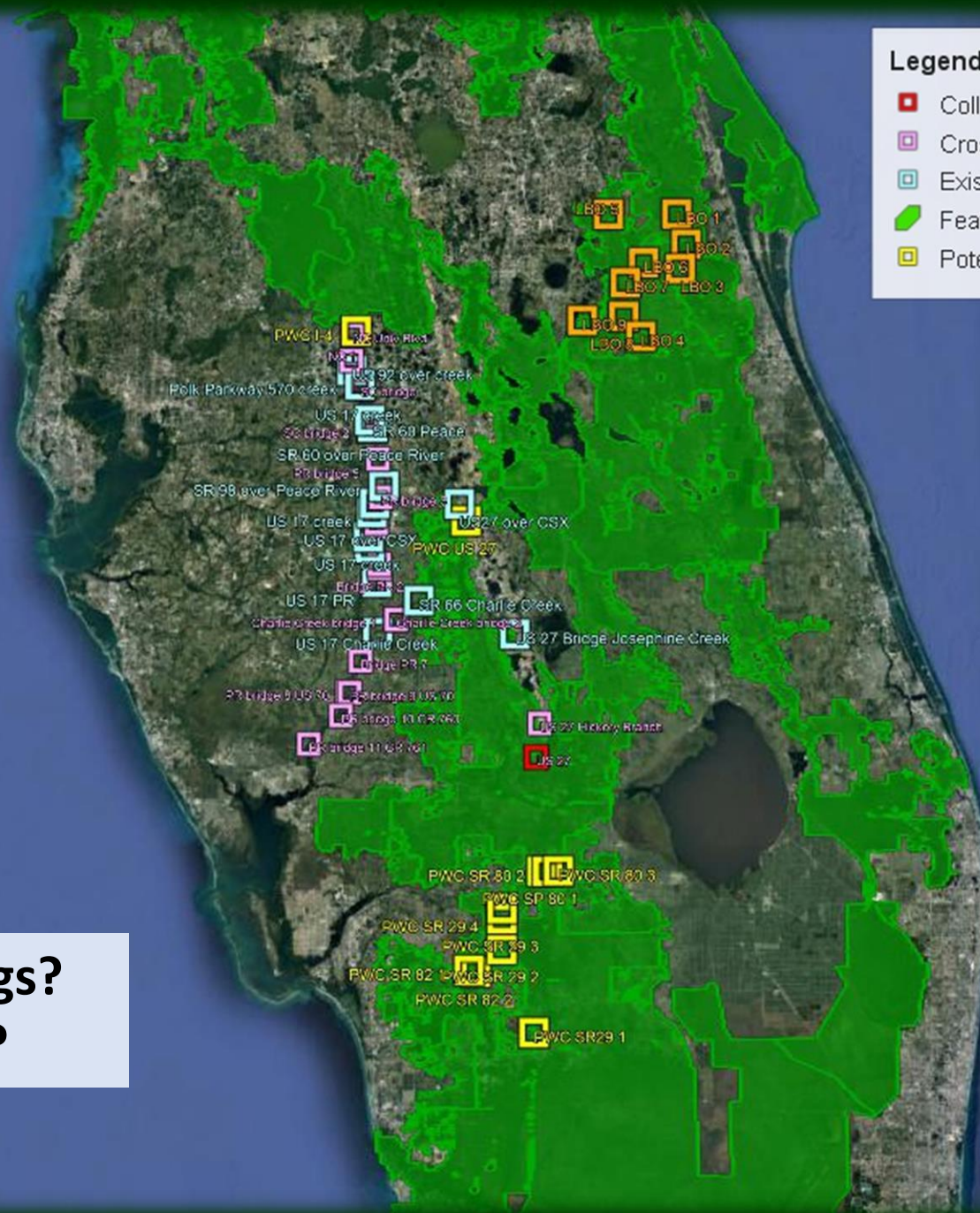
- Consider panther expansion area
- Additional data
- Improved modelling tools
- Analyze improved permeability





Legend

- Collision Hotspot on US 27
- Crossings of interest
- Existing Crossings
- Feature 2
- Potential Wildlife Crossings



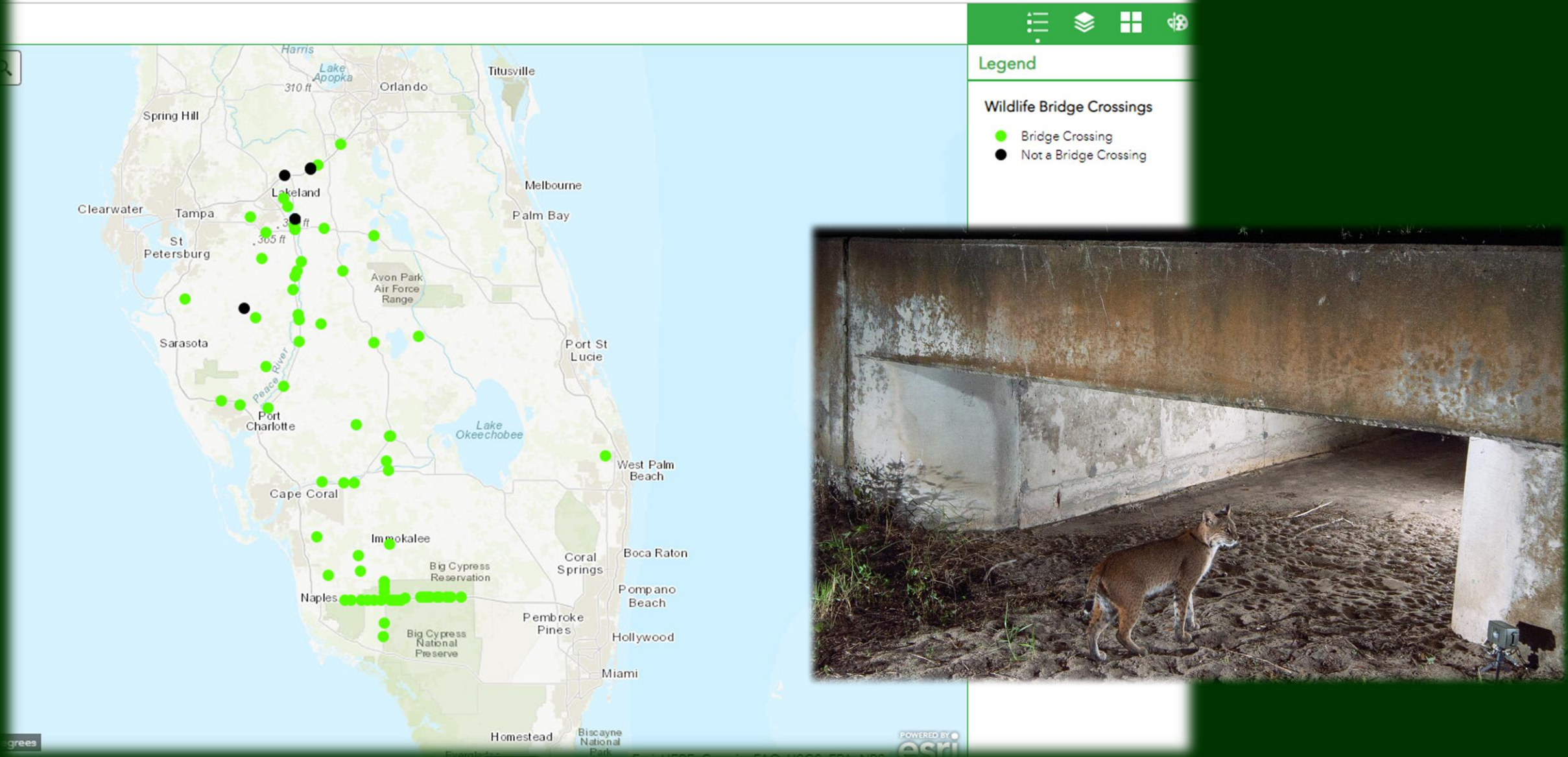
Where do we put new crossings?
How should they be designed?

Google Earth

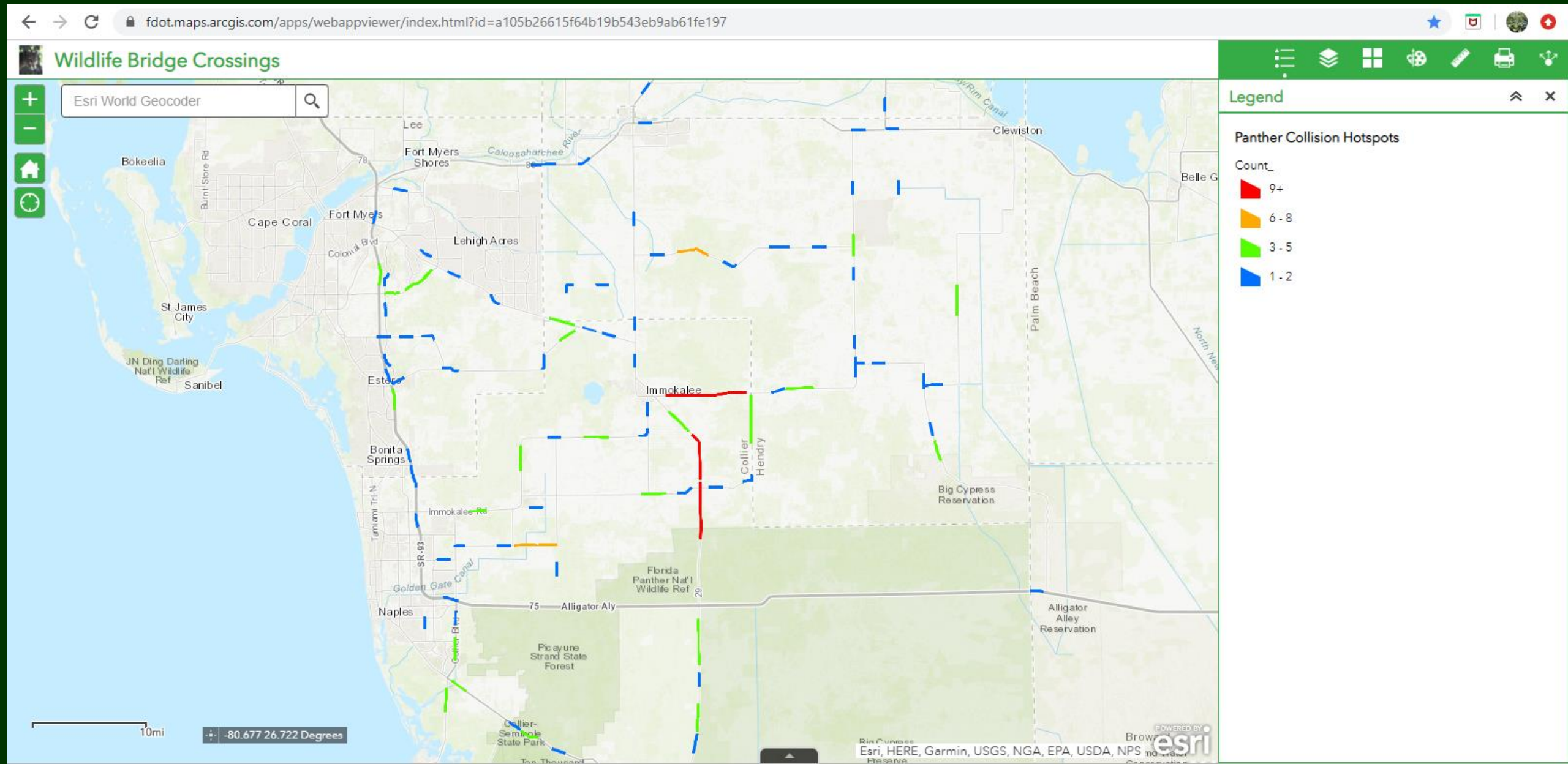
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

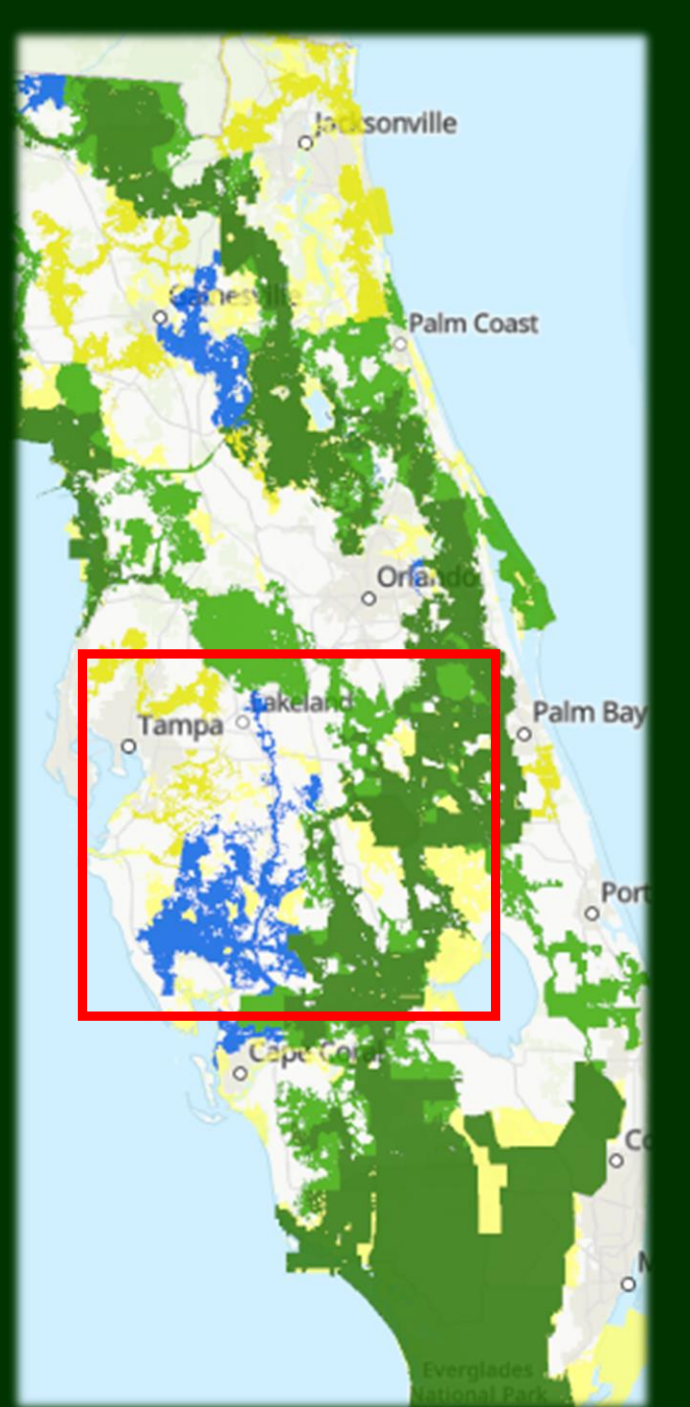
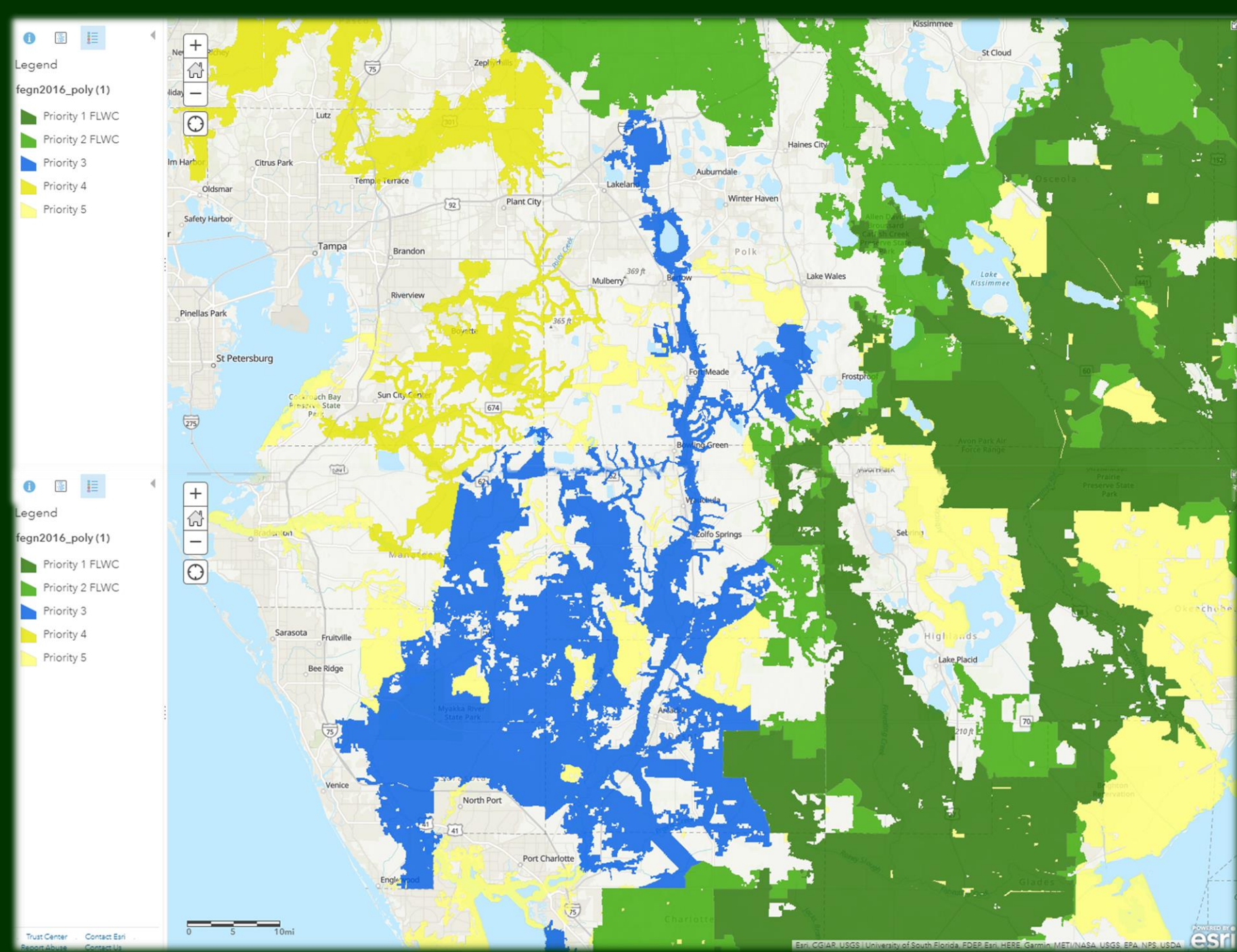
<https://fdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/>

webappviewer/index.html?id=a105b26615f64b19b543eb9ab61fe197



Panther Collision Hotspots - FDOT





Proposed I-4 Wildlife Crossing

Adding a well designed and sited wildlife crossing where the I-4 and the Peace River intersect would restore a measure of important ecological function to the Peace River Corridor.

Restoring connectivity and reversing legacy impacts like this elevate the value of conservation acquisitions, and improve the viability of Florida's wildlife.

Legend

- Florida Wildlife Corridor
- I-4 Crossing Prospect

I-4 Crossing Prospect

Google Earth

©2018 Google



7 mi

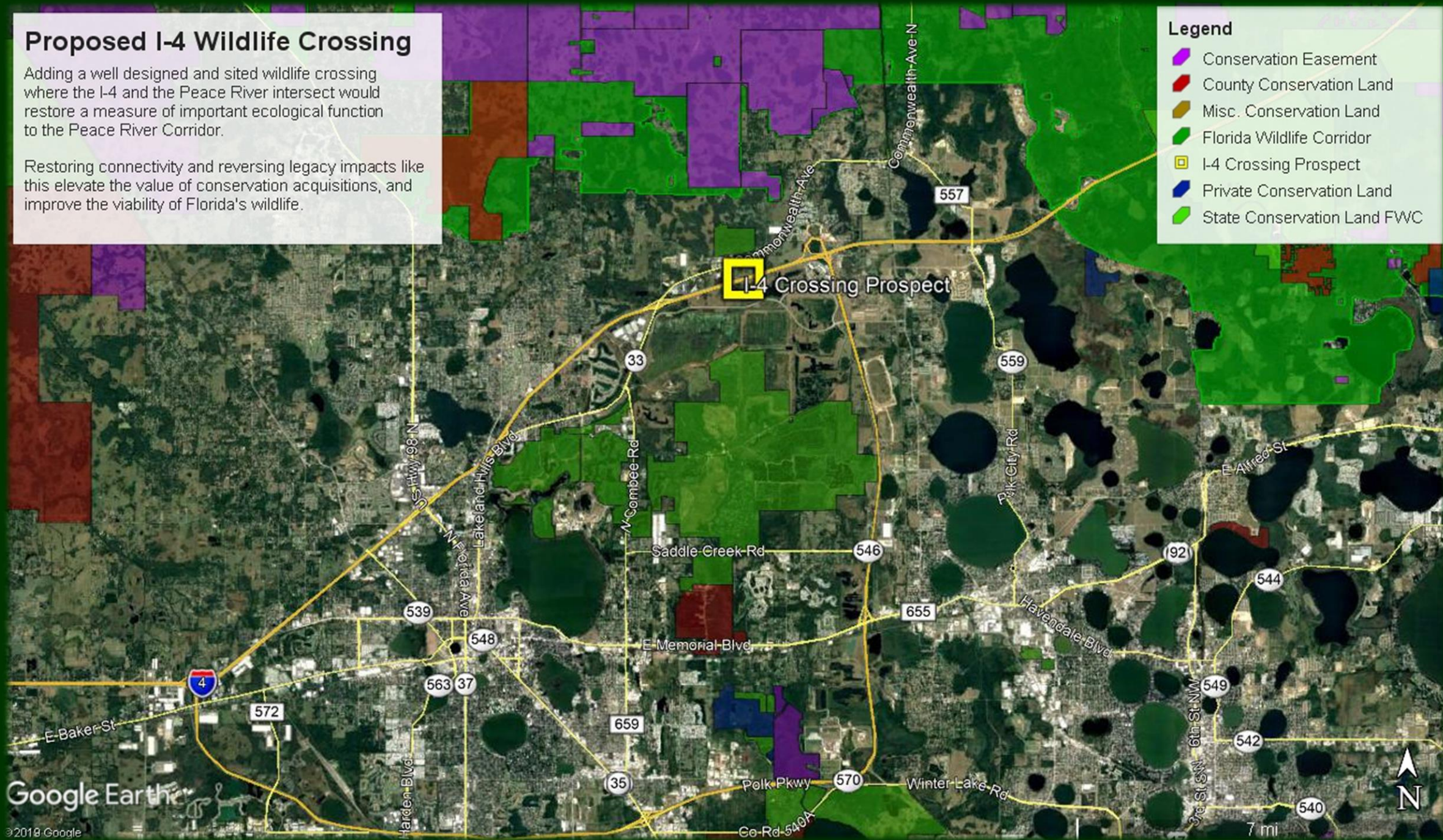
Proposed I-4 Wildlife Crossing

Adding a well designed and sited wildlife crossing where the I-4 and the Peace River intersect would restore a measure of important ecological function to the Peace River Corridor.

Restoring connectivity and reversing legacy impacts like this elevate the value of conservation acquisitions, and improve the viability of Florida's wildlife.

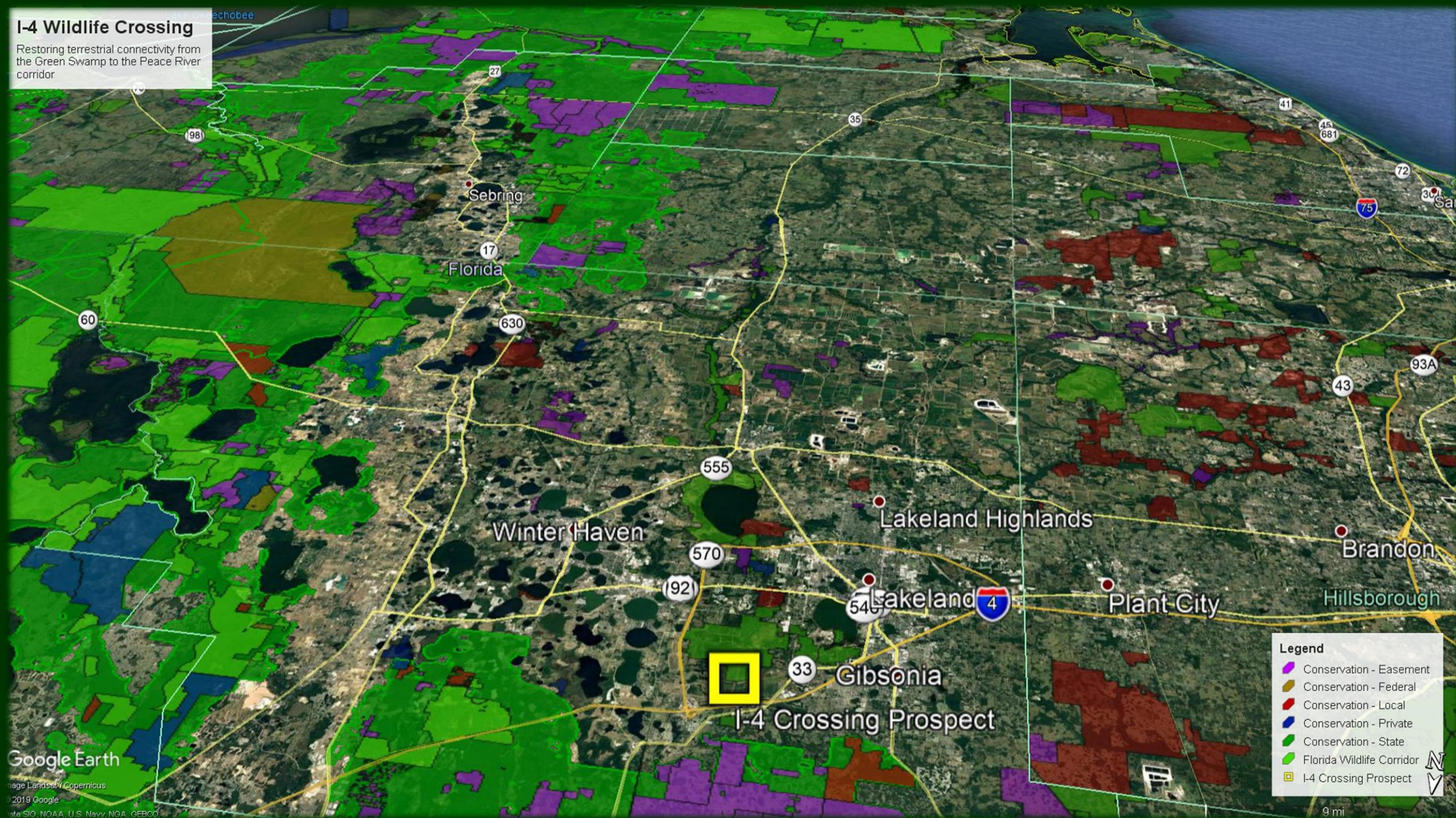
Legend

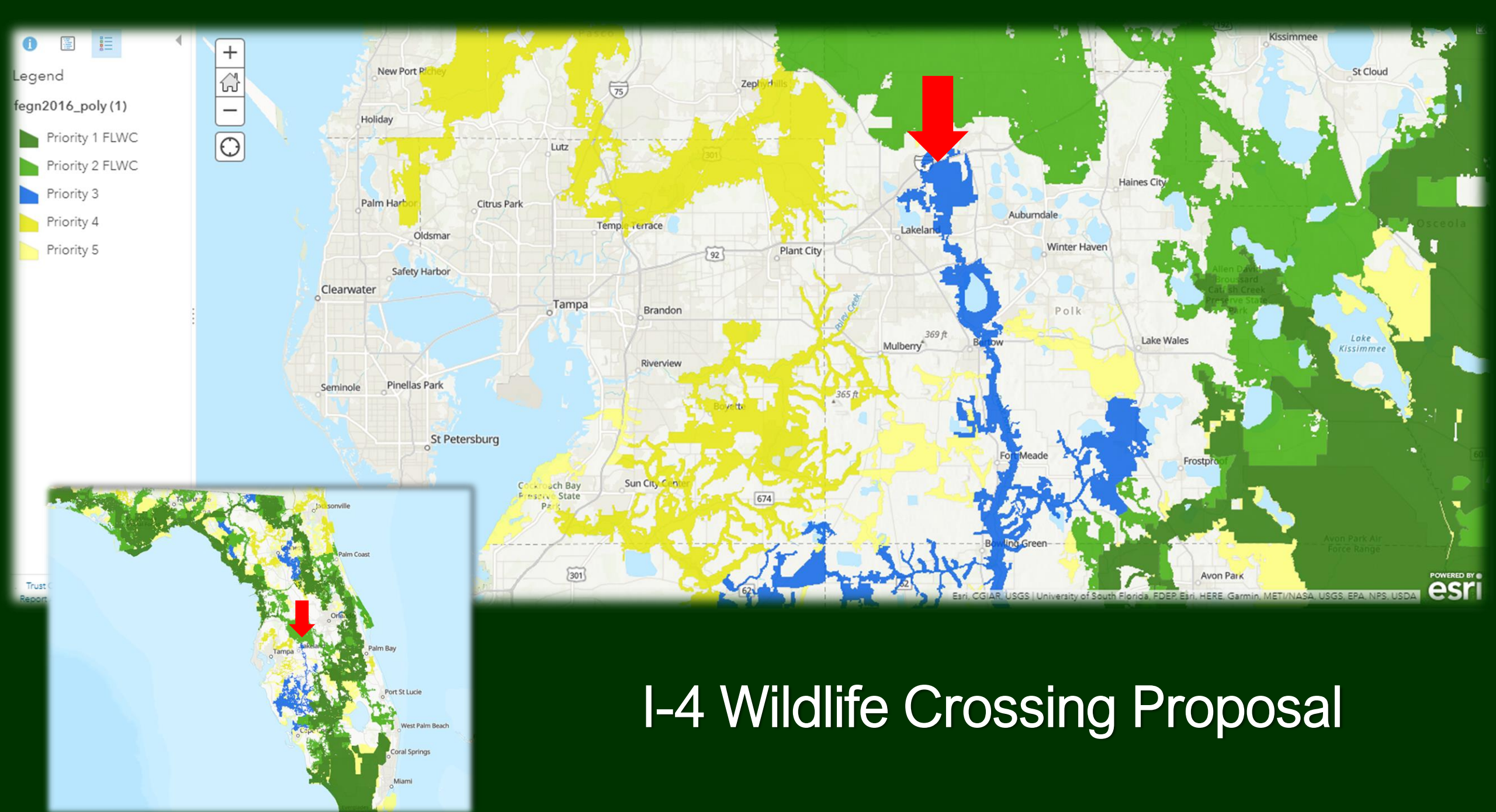
- Conservation Easement
- County Conservation Land
- Misc. Conservation Land
- Florida Wildlife Corridor
- I-4 Crossing Prospect
- Private Conservation Land
- State Conservation Land FWC

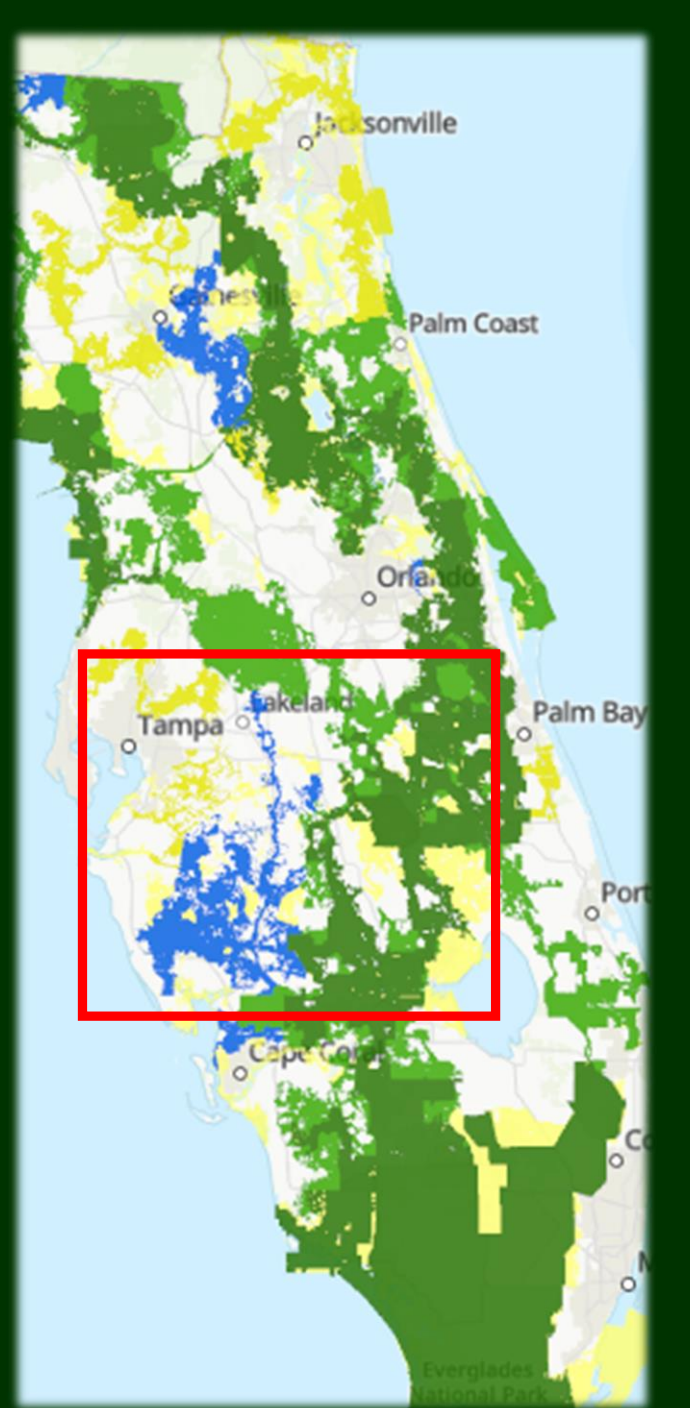
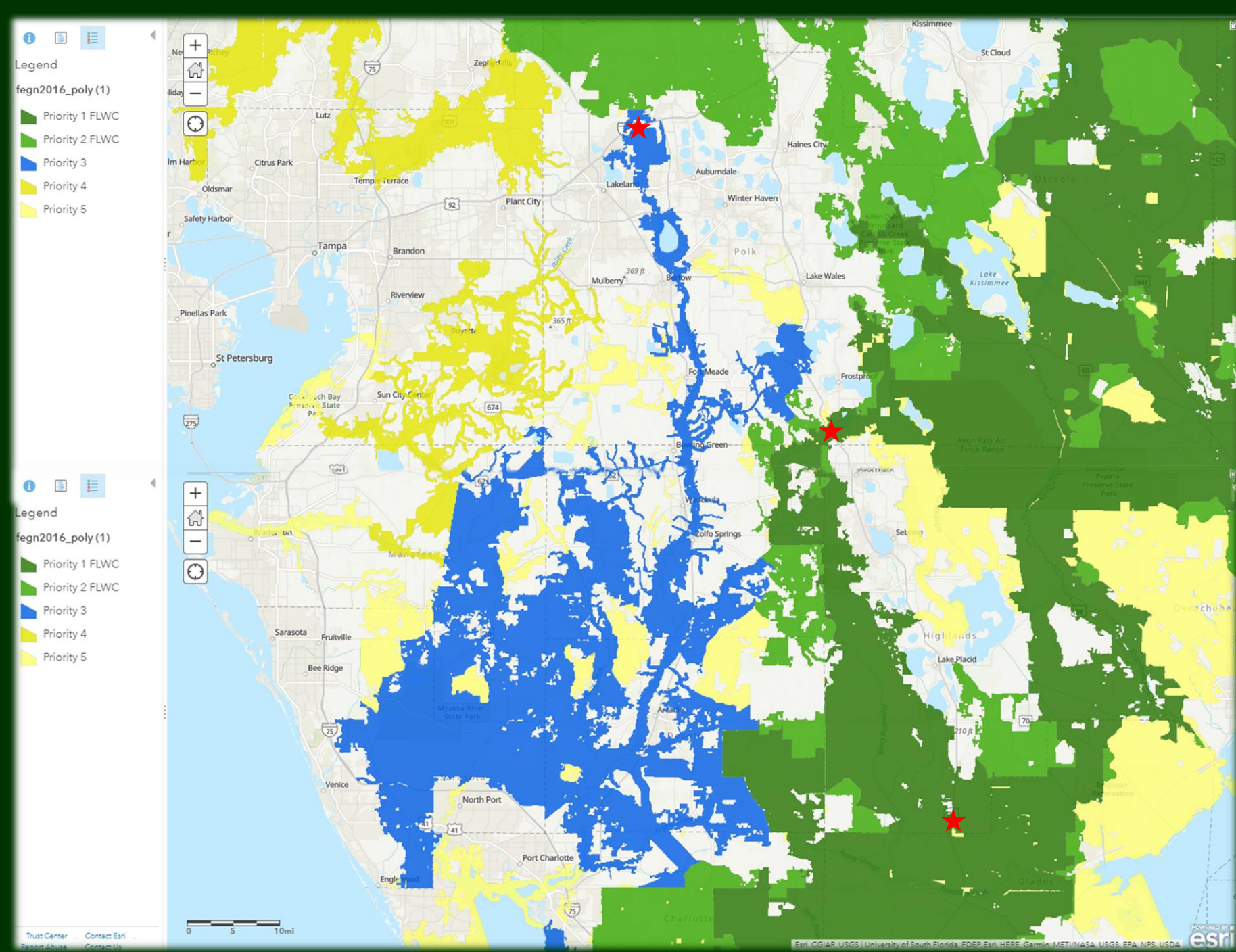


I-4 Wildlife Crossing

Restoring terrestrial connectivity from the Green Swamp to the Peace River corridor



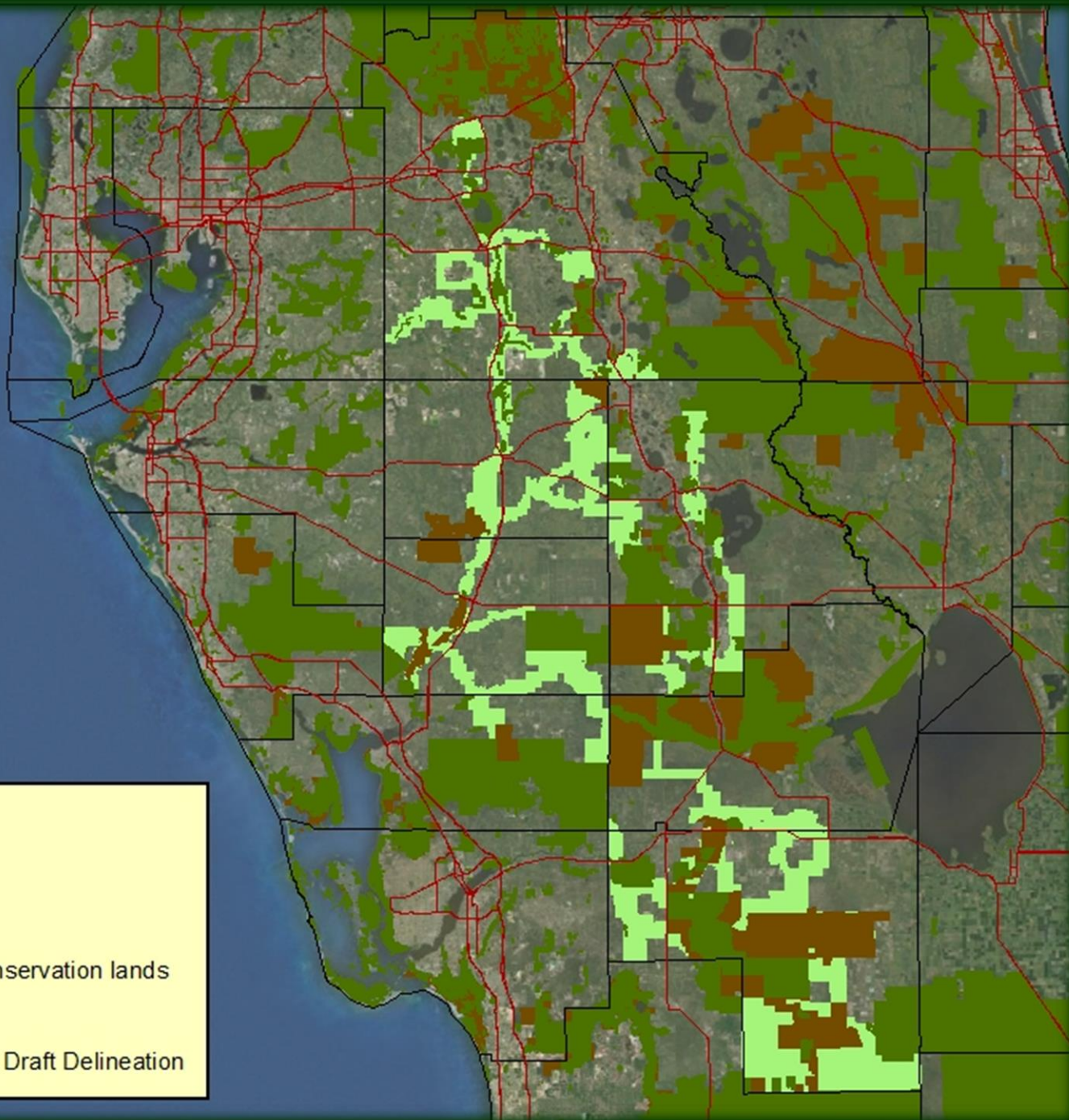






Legend

- Major roads
- County boundaries
- Existing public and private conservation lands
- Florida Forever Projects
- CCB Subcommittee Corridors Draft Delineation

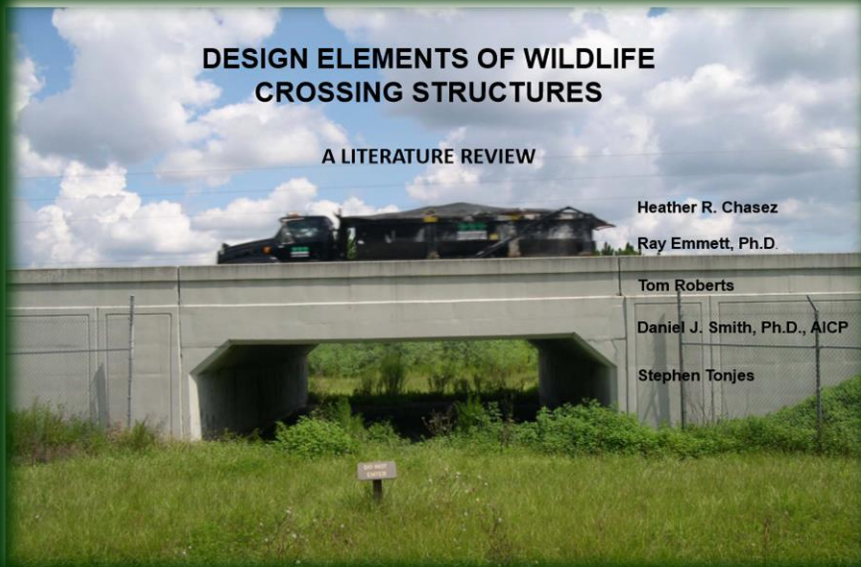




Crossing Design

Examples of study findings related to wildlife crossing design*.

- Cougars preference for underpasses
- Overpasses: lower mammal use when > 66' wide
- Overpasses 164-192' width appear adequate
- Recommend minimizing human use
- Vegetation type and density species dependent



FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

THANK YOU!

for more information visit:

<http://floridawildlifecorridor.org/>

to support FLWC:

<http://floridawildlifecorridor.org/support/>



Photos by
Carlton Ward Jr.
Grant Bemis
Steve Rannells
William Freund